Express Version 2.0 Manual Addendum

This document describes how Express version 2.0 differs from the original manual.

Spooling Options

Shortcut: ⌘O

General

The spooling process is now about 20% faster! Control is always returned sooner with Express than without (even with parallel card connections).

Initial Spool Status

Express v2.0 lets you print multiple copies of a spool file. The initial "copies remaining" value normally should be one, but you can enter another number if you always print multiple copies of your documents.

The "Keep when done printing" checkbox indicates whether the spool file will be deleted or kept on disk after printing.

The manual describes a popup menu with three "Initial Spool Status" choices. Those three options are still available by using the following options in Express v2.0:

Express v1.0 and v1.1	Express v2.0
Delete After Printing	Uncheck the "Keep when done printing" option
Keep After Printing	Check the "Keep when done printing" option
Don't Print	Set the "Copies Remaining" number to zero

Adjust Document Names

If this option is checked (the default), document names with colons in them will be truncated after the last colon (e.g. ":Hard:Letters:To.Mom" would become "To.Mom").

NOTE: Express automatically limits document names to 32 characters. Prior to version 2.0 Express stored the first 32 characters of the document name; version 2.0 stores the last 32 characters.

Spool Folder

You can now specify the name and location of the Express spool folder (the default remains "Express.Spools" inside the System folder of the your startup disk). *NOTE: If using System 6, the spool folder name is shown next to the Folder button. Pop open the menu to see the complete path.*

To change the spool folder name or location:

① Turn the Print Mode off.

② Click the Spooling Options button.

③ Click the Folder button and open the desired folder.

④ Click Accept to close the Standard File dialog box.

⑤ Click OK to close the Spooling Options dialog box.

Printing Options

Shortcut: ⌘P

General

The printing cache has been increased, which results in much less disk access when a file is printing in the background.

In version 1.0 and v1.1, Express "paced" its output so the printer's buffer would never get full (if the printer's buffer got full the port driver would "hang" the machine until the printer is ready). Version 2.0 radically changes the output method if you are using a serial port connection.

With a serial port connection Express now checks the printer's status directly to avoid "hanging" the port driver if the printer isn't ready. Because of this new ability, Express is able to output data as fast at the printer can accept it. The result is that printing with a serial port connection is now significantly faster.

With a non-serial port connection Express must use the former "pacing" method because it has no way to check the printer status.

With either connection method, you can "fine tune" the pacing values to your particular hardware.

Serial Port Connections

Only the first printing option applies to serial port connections...it determines *how much* information Express can output each time it gains control of the system (with a serial port connection Express gains control as often as possible).

While a file is printing in the background, if Express interrupts your activity (e.g. jerky mouse movement or slow reaction when clicking the mouse or choosing menu items) then decrease the number of characters Express outputs each time it gains control. On the other hand, if Express doesn't interrupt your activity, increase the number. *NOTE: Adjusting the number doesn't hurt anything, so feel free to experiment to find the optimal setting.*

Non-Serial Port Connections

Both printing options apply to non-serial port connections. The first option determines *how much* information Express outputs each time it gains control. The second option determines *how often* Express gains control of the system.

Because both these options interact it can be difficult to find the best settings. The goal is to output many characters as often as possible, but without causing Express to interrupt your work. To complicate matters, you'll find that different print qualities can be output at different speeds. For example, a DeskJet at 75dpi can accept data at a certain pace, but at 300dpi it can accept data at a quicker pace.

The best way we found to adjust the printing options for non-serial port connections is to start with the default of outputting "128" characters, then adjust the scroll bar to speed up or slow down the output as necessary. If you can adjust the scroll bar all the way to "more often" without any interruptions, increase the number of characters Express can output each time it gains control.

If you output too many characters at a time the system will be sluggish overall. If you output too many characters too often you'll also notice long delays when the printer's buffer is full (which causes the port driver to "hang" until the printer is no longer busy).

If your printer also has a serial connection (e.g. a DeskJet or LaserJet) then you should seriously consider using the serial connection. A serial printer cable costs less than $20 and background printing will be sped up *tremendously* (instead of having to artificially pace the data to the printer, a serial connection lets Express output data as fast as the printer can accept it).

Print Queue

General

If a document name is too wide to display completely in the list, the name is "scrunched" together. If it still won't fit, the end of the name is displayed.

Spool File Details

Double-clicking a document in the print queue presents the Spool File Details dialog box. As always, the Delete and Update buttons are dim unless the print mode is Off (or there is some other situation which causes Express to remove the padlock icon from the Print Queue list).

You can print up to 999 copies of a spool file. When the "Copies Remaining" box contains a number higher than zero, the spool file will be printed that many times. After each copy is printed this number decreases by one. When there are zero copies remaining the file is deleted unless the "Keep when done printing" option is checked.

The name of the application used to create the spool file is now remembered. If you look at a pre-2.0 spool file the application name will be "[unknown]".

Miscellaneous Changes

Finder comments are now saved with the spool file.

- The "Comments" tab in the Finder's Icon Info window displays information about what that spool file contains.
- *System 6 only:* Attempting to open a spool file in the Finder shows a useful message instead of the generic, "an application can't be found for this document" message.

Express now supports color printing on two versions of the ImageWriter.CL printer driver. *NOTE: If you haven't tried Apple's ImageWriter driver from System 5.0.4 or System 6, please do so...it includes a variety of paper size options, is very fast, and provides great output so there's no longer a compelling reason to use the Claris driver.*

The thermometer color is now remembered correctly (click on the thermometer to change its color).

AppleTalk printers and printing over an AppleShare network currently cannot be supported. Express version 2.0 improves the AppleShare recognition code and eliminates a rare situation where AppleShare users could get stuck in a loop.